

## **Memorandum**

Date: February 01, 2005

To: All SC Licensed EMS Providers

From: Alonzo W. Smith  
Director, SC DHEC Division of EMS

Re: SC Certifications

During this past year, our training staff has been discovering and resolving a number of situations where individuals have been working without a current SC EMT certification. There seems to be some confusion as to whether or not an EMT with a current National Registry Credential may function in SC regardless of the status of their SC state certification.

**Please be reminded that all individuals functioning as an EMT (any level) in SC must have and maintain a current SC certification and the EMT must have his/her “original color” SC certification pocket card on their person at all times while functioning as an EMT in SC.**

Some of the confusion seems to stem from the EMT’s understanding of the process in renewing their state certification after they have renewed their registry credential. Please read the following carefully and make sure your EMTs understand the process.

### **Those Who Take The National Registry (NR) Exam :**

All candidates who take the National Registry examination in SC will automatically receive their SC EMT certification / re-certification within three weeks after they have received their registry results.

Once an individual passes and receives their NR credential, the NR will forward to the SC state office within seven to ten work days, a copy of the results for everyone who took the examination that day. The state office will then match up the results with each candidate’s *Certificate Application* (white, green or blue) *Card*. The “completed” applications are processed and a SC EMT certification is automatically issued to the candidate. This process may take up to an additional ten work days.

### **Those Who Renew Their National Registry (NR) Credential Without Testing:**

All candidates who have taken a refresher course or completed the equivalent in training to renew their current National Registry Credential without having to re-test the registry examination will need to follow the steps below:

1. **Basic:** Submit to the SC state EMS office a copy of your renewed NR credential and a current BLS (CPR) card along with a completed *Certificate Application* (white) *Card* prior to your SC EMT expiration date.
2. **Intermediate:** Submit to the SC state EMS office a copy of your renewed NR credential and a current BLS (CPR) card along with a completed *Certificate Application* (green) *Card* prior to your SC EMT expiration date. Don't forget to obtain the signatures of the service director & medical control director on the card.
3. **Paramedic:** Submit to the SC state EMS office a copy of your renewed NR credential and a current BLS (CPR) card & a current ACLS card along with a completed *Certificate Application* (blue) *Card* prior to your SC EMT expiration date. Don't forget to obtain the signatures of the service director & medical control director on the card.

Another problem the state office has recently investigated is one involving fraudulent credentials. Individuals functioning without a valid and current SC state EMT credential are in violation of SC law. **It is the responsibility of each EMS director to ensure that each EMT affiliated with their service has a current and valid SC credential.** Most EMS providers are NOT verifying an EMT's status and are simply accepting either the EMT's word or a "photocopy" of his/her state EMT credential. The state's investigation has resulted in revocation of an individual's state EMT credential by DHEC and revocation of the individual's NR credential by the National Registry. Due to the seriousness of this concern, I am asking each EMS director of a SC licensed EMS provider to adhere with the following request.

1. Verify that each EMT working in your service has a current and valid SC EMT certification pocket card. Verification should be made by seeing the original "color" EMT pocket card of the EMT and making a photocopy of the original card for your records.

Any individual NOT possessing an original color, current SC EMT pocket card must be immediately removed from functioning as an EMT in SC until they have obtained the acceptable valid credential.

For a replacement SC EMT pocket card - the individual may contact Ms. Rosalind Davis (803) 545-4204 for information on obtaining a replacement.

2. Please advise me, in writing, when you have verified that all of your EMT basic, Intermediate and Paramedic employees have a current SC certification and please report to

me any employee who does not have a current SC certification.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. By working together we can resolve problems before they become liabilities for your service and before they become problems for this office. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Don Whiteley, Manager for Training & Certification, at (803) 545-4204.

AWS:dw